

Case 2578

***Pararatus* Ricardo, 1913 (Insecta, Diptera): proposed designation of *Pararatus ricardoe* Daniels, 1987 as type species**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to designate a type species for the robber fly genus *Pararatus* Ricardo, 1913 (family ASILIDAE) which, at present, has the misidentified type species *Blepharotes macrostylus* Loew, 1874. It is proposed that the new species *P. ricardoe* Daniels, 1987 be designated type species of *Pararatus*.

1. Ricardo (1913, p. 429) erected *Pararatus* for the single nominal species *Blepharotes macrostylus* Loew, 1874 (p. 75) and designated it the type species.

2. Comparison of the holotype of *B. macrostylus* in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt Universität, Berlin, with the three recognisable specimens of '*P. macrostylus*' used by Ricardo in the British Museum (Natural History), London, shows that the two are neither conspecific nor congeneric. It is clear that Ricardo misidentified the specimens before her when she designated *B. macrostylus* as the type species of *Pararatus*. However, *Pararatus* is accepted for the species *macrostylus* sensu Ricardo.

3. To preserve the usage of *Pararatus* I here propose that '*P. macrostylus*' as understood by Ricardo be referred to a new species, *Pararatus ricardoe*. There is no previously available name for this taxon, and to preserve the concept of *Pararatus* intended by Ricardo it is requested that *P. ricardoe* be designated as the type species of *Pararatus*. Of the six specimens that Ricardo had before her when she described *Pararatus* only three could be recognised with certainty in the British Museum (Natural History) in 1983. The male specimen with damaged genitalia and labelled 'Mallee district, Victoria, Mr French's Collection' and referred to by Ricardo (1913 p. 429) is here chosen as the holotype of *Pararatus ricardoe*.

4. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all previous designations of type species made for the nominal genus *Pararatus* Ricardo, 1913 and to designate *Pararatus ricardoe* Daniels, 1987 as type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the name *Pararatus* Ricardo, 1913 (gender: masculine), type species *Pararatus ricardoe* Daniels, 1987, by designation in (1) above;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *ricardoe* Daniels, 1987, as published in the binomen *Pararatus ricardoe* (specific name of the type species of *Pararatus* Ricardo, 1913).

References

- Loew, H. 1874. Ueber die Arten der Gattung *Blepharotes* Westw. *Zeitschrift für die Gesammten Naturwissenschaften*, **44**: 71–75.
- Ricardo, G. 1913. A review of the Asilidae of Australasia. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, series 8, **11**: 429–451.